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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/589,356	06/08/2000	Nobuhisa Yoda	016907/1095	9979

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, LE V	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2174	14

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/589,356	YODA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Le Nguyen	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 December 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment D, filed 12/29/03.

2. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application; claims 1, 3 and 7 are independent claims; claim1 has been amended; and, claim 9 has been added

3. Due to Examiner's oversight, claim 8 has not been treated and, therefore, this action is made non-final.

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (specification, pages 2-3) in view of Barrett et al. ("Barrett", US 5,880,727).

As per claim 1, Applicant's admitted prior art teaches an image processing system comprising an image reading device having an operation screen, for reading images based on an operation hierarchy of the operation screen wherein the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of said image reading device corresponds to the directory for recording the image of said file server (page 1, line 12 and 15; page 2, lines 6-22; *wherein an operation screen is inherent to the system in order to receive users' input*). Official Notice is given that hierarchical directories consisting of files in a hierarchical tree format are well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to include a hierarchical directory to Applicant's admitted prior art so that

with a cursory glance, users may view the tree view of the operation hierarchy and obtain what they are searching for more quickly. Furthermore, Applicant's admitted prior art teaches an image processing system comprising an image reading device having an operation screen for reading images, a file server for recording the images from the image reading device on a directory and a plurality of client terminals connected to said file server via a communication line, for accessing the images recorded on the directory of the file server, and for commonly using the image reading device wherein the operation hierarchy of an operation screen of said image reading device is set to have a correspondence relation with respect to the directory for recording the image of said file server and changing point of the operation hierarchy reflect on the directory (page 1, line 12 and 15; page 2, lines 6-22). The modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art does not explicitly disclose an image processing system comprising an operation hierarchy and a directory hierarchy wherein contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device correspond to contents of the directory hierarchy for recording the images of the file server such that changing points of the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points of the directory hierarchy. Barrett teaches an image processing system comprising an image reading device having an operation screen for reading images based on an operation hierarchy of the operation screen wherein contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device correspond to contents of the directory for recording the images such that changing points of the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points within the directory (figs. 4-5; col. 5, lines 21-59; *upon selecting an element such as "522", screen 50 of fig. 4 is replaced by the screen displayed in fig. 5 which reflects a different direction in the operation hierarchy*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an

artisan at the time of the invention to include Barrett's teaching of an image processing system comprising an image reading device having an operation screen for reading images based on an operation hierarchy of the operation screen wherein contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device correspond to contents of the directory for recording the images such that changing points of the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points within the directory, to Applicant's admitted prior art wherein an image processing system comprising an image reading device having an operation screen for reading images, a file server for recording the images from the image reading device on a directory and a plurality of client terminals connected to said file server via a communication line, for accessing the images recorded on the directory of the file server, and for commonly using the image reading device wherein the operation hierarchy of an operation screen of said image reading device is set to have a correspondence relation with respect to the directory for recording the image of said file server and changing point of the operation hierarchy reflect on the directory in order to provide a more organized method of managing a directory in order of its corresponding contents of operation and also be consistent with the benefit(s) of having a hierarchical directory consisting of files in a hierarchical tree format wherein users, who are viewing the tree view of the operation hierarchy, may obtain what they are searching for quickly.

As per claim 2, Applicant's admitted prior art teaches an image processing system wherein the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of said image reading device is an operation screen of each hierarchy of said image reading device when an image is recorded on said file server (page 2, line 17 through page 3, line 2).

As per claim 3, the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett teaches an image processing system comprising contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device directly correspond to contents of the directory hierarchy for recording the images of the file server (*i.e. directly correspond as in a one-to-one relationship wherein each operation screen is grouped according to function and saved in a separate file of the directory*) wherein when the image reading device changes the contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen, the contents of the directory hierarchy of the file server are inherently changed in accordance with the changed contents of the operation hierarchy, and when the client terminals change the contents of the directory hierarchy of the file server, the contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device are inherently changed in accordance with the changed contents of the directory hierarchy.

As per claim 4, the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett teaches the image processing system wherein an image-processing device function is accessible to a particular user (Applicant's admitted prior art: page 3, lines 1-2) and inherently comprising of an access limit assigned to the directory hierarchy of the file server for recording the image which corresponds to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device when an access limit of a user is assigned to either the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen in order for the system to recognize the operation screen and allow users access to its directory.

Claim 7 is similar in scope to the combination of claims 1 and 3 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 9, the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett teaches an image processing system wherein the directory hierarchy of the file server is inherently in a 1:1 correspondence to the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device given that the two has to be in synchronization, *i.e.* the hierarchy screen is in sync with the directory hierarchy of the file server, to avoid discrepancies in the imaging process.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Barrett et al. ("Barrett", US 5,880,727) as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of Bladow et al. ("Bladow", US 6,115,040).

As per claim 5, the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett as recited in claim 4 teaches an image processing system wherein the access limit is made according to whether authorization is given based on an access limit. The teaching does not explicitly disclose an image processing system wherein the access limit is made according to whether authorization is given based on a log-in process using a user name and password. Bladow teaches a system providing a user interface for communicating with remote services, wherein access limit to the system is made according to whether authorization is made by a log-in process using a user name and password (col. 3, lines 30-36). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Bladow's system of utilizing user name and password to limit user's accessibility to the system, to the method of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett comprising limiting user's accessibility to the system to a particular user in order to insure that the user has valid access to the system and allow the user to access the system remotely.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Barrett et al. ("Barrett", US 5,880,727) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bladow et al. ("Bladow", US 6,115,040).

As per claim 6, the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett teaches an image processing system wherein an image-processing device function is accessible to a particular user (Applicant's admitted prior art: page 3, lines 1-2). The teaching does not explicitly disclose an image processing system wherein the access limit of a user is a password number. Bladow teaches a system providing a user interface for communicating with remote services, wherein access limit to the system is made according to whether authorization is made by a log-in process using a user name and password (col. 3, lines 30-36). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Bladow's system of utilizing a password number for limiting user's accessibility to the system, to the method of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett comprising limiting user's accessibility to the system according to a particular user in order to insure that the user has valid access to the system and allow the user to access the system remotely. Furthermore, the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art, Barrett and Bladow does not explicitly disclose a password number wherein when an access limit of a user is set on either the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen, a secret directory is automatically formed in the directory hierarchy of the file server corresponding to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device. Official Notice is given that forming a secret directory having a name based on the password number in the directory hierarchy of the file server corresponding to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device is well known in the

art in order to allow new directories having a name based on the password number to be formed or renaming existing directories having a name based on the password number to be formed.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Barrett et al. ("Barrett", US 5,880,727) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bladow et al. ("Bladow", US 6,115,040).

As per claim 8, although the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art, Barrett and Bladow teaches an image processing system wherein the system provides a user interface for communicating with remote services, wherein access limit to the system is made according to whether authorization is made by a log-in process using a user name and a stored password (Bladow: col. 3, lines 30-36), the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art, Barrett and Bladow does not explicitly disclose storing the password number in a password number directory that is not formed under a screen directory or an operation button directory in a directory hierarchy. Official Notice is taken that storing a password number in a directory separate from a screen directory or an operation button directory is well known in the art (*i.e. storing the password number in a password number directory that is not formed under a screen directory or an operation button directory in a directory hierarchy is well known in the art*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include storing the password number in a password number directory that is not formed under a screen directory or an operation button directory in a directory hierarchy to the modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art, Barrett and Bladow's teaching of storing a password in order to provide increased flexibility in organizing files and folders as well as managing a directory.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments in a Request for Reconsideration have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the following:

(a) Barrett and Bladow are not directed to the combination of a multi-function peripherals and a server.

(b) The modified teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art and Barrett does not teach or suggest a two-way-changing of information stored in the image reading device and the file server. Moreover, Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose that the correspondency of the hierarchical structure of the MFP to that of the server is 1:1.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

(a) Barrett and Bladow disclose a multi-function peripherals technology, which Applicant accedes, and a directory hierarchy and operation hierarchy of the operation screen in communication with one another wherein the communication involves sending and receiving requests; in particular, when the directory hierarchy screen or the operation screen respond to a request from the other, it is in the role of a server and is consistent with a server's definition and function of responding to requests.

(b) In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (*i.e., storing* change information in the image reading device and the file server) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26

USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Moreover, the Office Action clearly indicates that when the image reading device changes the contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen, the contents of the directory hierarchy of the file server are inherently changed in accordance with the changed contents of the operation hierarchy, and when the client terminals change the contents of the directory hierarchy of the file server, the contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device are inherently changed in accordance with the changed contents of the directory hierarchy, as recited in claim 3. In regards to the directory hierarchy of the file server having a 1:1 correspondence to the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device, this feature of newly added claim 9 is addressed in the above Office Action.

Inquires

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Lê whose telephone number is **(703) 305-7601**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LVN
Patent Examiner
March 16, 2004

Kristine Kincaid
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